

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of image-processing apparatuses which are coupled to a network, and each of which includes a rasterizer to conduct a rasterizing operation for rasterizing image data that represents an image and for outputting the rasterized image data;
5 and

an image-printing apparatus coupled to the network, which is coupled to the plurality of image-processing apparatuses through the network, and which includes an image-forming section which
10 forms a reproduced image on a sheet;

wherein the plurality of image-processing apparatuses are divided into a plurality of groups, each of which includes at least one of the image-processing apparatuses;

wherein each of the image-processing apparatuses included in
15 one of the plurality of groups stores access restriction
information representing a restricted range of an accessing right
to access other image-processing apparatuses belonging to other
groups; and

wherein a first image-processing apparatus belonging to a
20 first one of the groups can request a second image processing

apparatus belonging to a second one of the groups to perform the rasterizing operation, only when the access restriction information, stored in the first image-processing apparatus, indicates that the first image-processing apparatus has been
25 given the accessing right to access the second image-processing apparatus.

~~wherein a first image-processing apparatus belonging to a first one of the groups is capable of performing the rasterizing operation in response to a request by a second image-processing apparatus belonging to a second one of the groups; and~~
30

~~wherein the second image-processing apparatus belonging to the second group comprises a storage section to store access restriction information for specifying the first group as a group to which an accessing right is given and as including an image-processing apparatus to which the rasterizing operation can be~~
35 ~~requested.~~

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the image-printing apparatus belongs to one of the plurality of groups, and the image-printing apparatus comprises a storage section to store the access restriction information of the at
5 least one image-processing apparatus belonging to the same group as the image-printing apparatus.

16. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of image-processing apparatuses which are coupled to a network, and each of which includes a rasterizer to conduct a rasterizing operation for rasterizing image data that represents an image and for outputting the rasterized image data;

an image-printing apparatus coupled to the network, which is coupled to the plurality of image-processing apparatuses through the network, and which includes an image-forming section which forms a reproduced image on a sheet; and

a server that is coupled to the network,

wherein the plurality of image-processing apparatuses are divided into a plurality of groups, each of which includes at least one of the image-processing apparatuses;

wherein the server stores access restriction information with respect to each of the image-processing apparatuses included in one of the plurality of groups, the access restriction information representing a restricted range of an accessing right of the image-processing apparatuses in the group to access other image-processing apparatuses belonging to other groups; and

wherein a first image-processing belonging to a first one of the groups can request a second image-processing apparatus belonging to a second one of the groups to perform the rasterizing operation, only when the server gives the first image-processing apparatus the accessing right to access the

25 second image-processing apparatus, based on the access
 restriction information stored in the server.

~~wherein a first image-processing apparatus belonging to a~~
 ~~first one of the groups is capable of performing the rasterizing~~
 ~~operation in response to a request by a second image-processing~~
30 ~~apparatus belonging to a second one of the groups; and~~

~~wherein the server comprises a storage section to store~~
 ~~access restriction information for specifying the first group as~~
 ~~including an image-processing apparatus that is capable of~~
 ~~performing the rasterizing operation in response to a request,~~
35 ~~and the server gives an accessing right to access the first group~~
 ~~to the second image-processing apparatus belonging to the second~~
 ~~group.~~

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein
the image-printing apparatus belongs to one of the plurality of
groups.